

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 SPM-01 SP-03 AID-20 IGA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9697

INFO USUN NEW YORK 627

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2980

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, UN SOCI YO

SUBJ: UN SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

REF : STATE 129075 (NOTAL)

1. WE AGREE WITH GENERAL VIEW EXPRESSED BY ITALIANS
(ROME 8415 NOTAL) RE UN OHRID MINORITIES SEMINAR THAT
YUGOSLAVS, AS HOSTS FOR WHAT THEY HOPE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL
CONFERENCE, ARE NOT LIKELY TO WANT TO SEE MEETING DEGENERATE
INTO SERIES OF POLEMICAL ATTACKS. MACEDONIAN OFFICIALS
HAVE RECENTLY TOLD US THAT AT OHRID SEMINAR GOY PLANNED
TO DESCRIBE ITS OWN LIBERAL POLICY TOWARD MINORITIES,
REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO GUARANTEES IN NEW CONSTITUTION.
ONE OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA DOES NOT INTEND
TO PRECIPITATE POLEMICAL EXCHANGE BUT AT SAME TIME SEES
NO NEED TO BE UNDULY MODEST IN REPORTING ON ITS OWN
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MINORITIES FIELD.

2. ONE MACEDONIAN OFFICIAL FORESAW POSSIBILITY OF "POLEMICS"
AT SEMINAR ON PART OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEIGHBORING
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COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING BULGARIA AS COUNTRY WHICH

DENIES EXISTENCE OF ANY MINORITIES INSIDE ITS BORDERS. OUR GUESS IS THAT GOY REPRESENTATIVES AT SEMINAR WILL BE QUICK TO RESPOND TO ANY STATEMENTS THEY INTERPRET AS DENYING EXISTENCE OF "THEIR" NATIONALITY GROUPS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, E.G., MACEDONIANS IN BULGARIA. GREEKS PROBABLY HAVE LESS BASIS FOR THEIR FEAR THAT GOY WILL USE OHRID SEMINAR AS PROPAGANDA PLATFORM TO ATTACK THEM FOR THEIR TREATMENT OF MACEDONIANS (USUN 2160), SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO OPEN CRITICISM THAT WE ARE AWARE OF DIRECTED AGAINST GREEKS ON THIS SCORE IN RECENT MONTHS (IN CONTRAST TO BULGARIANS). SPEAKERS AT MACEDONIAN PARTY CONGRESS IN APRIL DID REFER TO MACEDONIAN MINORITY IN BULGARIA, GREECE AND (SURPRISINGLY) ALBANIA, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING WHICH COULD BE LABELLED AS AN ATTACK ON GREEK POLICIES.
JOHNSON

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